

WILL KILL IDIOTS

SPARTAN-LIKE SOCIETY IS ORGANIZED IN NEW YORK.

Its Original Promoters are Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery-McGovern. Who, if Their Baby Should be Born an Idiot or Deformed, Will Ask the Board of Health to Please Have it Electrocuted—Two Suffering Cranks Talk Calmly of Murder for the Good of the State—Will Ask for Legislation, of Course.

New York, July 17.—A man and a girl met last year, married each other for the sake of science, not sentiment, and organized a society which will, if successful, accomplish greater changes than any modern organization. They declare that they will ask the New York board of health to electrocute their child if it is born idiotic or deformed.

They are not insane persons or cranks or wild-eyed visionaries. They are well bred, well educated, with charming, agreeable manners and a great deal of serious interest in the betterment of humanity.

They told their history and their theories to a reporter Monday in their apartment at 875 Driggs avenue, Brooklyn.

The young man and his wife spoke as one person. When either halted in the formation of a sentence the other carried it to a conclusion and the first speaker nodded assent. Absolute harmony exists between them. They seem to be full of hope that their plans will in time do a great deal to make men and women better.

Chauncey McGovern came to New York from Canada less than two years ago. He is not more than 28 years old, of medium height and build, with serious brown eyes that look straight at you as he speaks. He is not engaged in business, but, having an income, he writes articles for magazines.

He happened to meet, early in the spring of 1896, at the home of a friend in New York, Miss Janet B. Montgomery of Rome, Ga. She is several years his junior, tall, fair, of graceful figure and remarkably attractive.

"Ours was a marriage of science, not sentiment," said Mrs. McGovern, proudly, though her fond smile and the glances she cast at her husband witnessed in this instance is but a synonym for sentiment.

"Yes," added Mr. McGovern, "quite a marriage of science. It was a chance remark of mine that I believed all incurable lunatics should be mercifully electrocuted that first awakened Miss Montgomery's interest. She had long believed the same thing. We found we had many ideas in common. After some time we concluded we might marry each other."

"Yes, we were married within two months of the evening we first met," said Mrs. McGovern. "We soon organized the society for the perfection of the human species. That was May 31, 1896. Mr. McGovern was the first president and I was the secretary. We decided to share everything equally. We have even united our names into Montgomery-McGovern. We believe in being equal in all things—O, I don't mean woman's rights or the advanced or new woman—but that we should really be equal. I used to write before our marriage and so did my husband. Now we write our articles together."

"We expect a magazine to publish one of our articles within a month or so showing that Christianity will be extinct within 700 years," said Mr. Montgomery-McGovern.

"But as to our society. We seek to raise the standard of humanity by obtaining the enactment of laws to uplift mankind physically, mentally and socially through the abolition of all existing absurd customs."

The platform of the society consists of eight planks:

- First—Love is but the result of certain circumstances, and is brought about artificially as well as accidentally.
- Marriage to be entered on common sense ground; that is, men and women should marry their mental, physical and social complements.
- Marriage between persons who have any disease which may be transmitted to posterity, or with any strong hereditary blood taint, to be strictly prohibited by law; also, the marriage of immoral men and women.
- All candidates for matrimony must submit to a mental and physical examination by state physicians appointed for the purpose.
- "There have been noble men and women," said Mrs. Montgomery-McGovern, "who have refused marriage because of a hereditary taint of insanity in their blood. Such marriages should be forbidden by law. Some of our friends ask, 'Can the law prevail over sentiment?' We think it can among people whose minds have been properly trained."
- Second—All badly deformed, idiotic and constitutionally diseased children should be peacefully electrocuted within three months after said disease or deformity has been ascertained by state physicians pronounced incurable.
- "Aren't you forgetting the maternal instinct?" asked the reporter.
- "The mind should be stronger than instinct, should overcome it," replied Mrs. Montgomery-McGovern.
- "If our child should be born idiotic or incurably deformed," said Mr. Montgomery-McGovern, "I would at once write to the board of health and demand that they electrocute it."

Mrs. McGovern smiled and nodded cordially.

"But how could you consent to such a thing?" the reporter asked incredulously.

"It would be for the best," she replied, firmly. "It is for the good of the race that all such individuals should be obliterated. The Spartans followed this rule."

"But their race vanished," said the reporter.

"Only when all Greece decayed," replied Mrs. Montgomery-McGovern. "It would be an act of mercy, of the greatest charity to the poor, deformed child or idiot to kill it painlessly. The act is not only one of kindness to the child, but of benefit to the race."

Mrs. Montgomery-McGovern will soon be a mother, yet she spoke of the possibility of the destruction of her child as placidly as if she were talking of the weather. Her husband was equally calm.

"We have advanced a long way from the status of our cave-dwelling ancestors," he said. "We cannot run as fast, perhaps, as they could. But, while they were ruled by their instincts, we are governed by our intellects. Of course the parental instinct rebels at the mere idea of having one's own child killed. But we should think of the betterment

of society, of the whole human family. Why should not the law go further? Why should it not be logical and treat causes instead of effects?"

"In other words," said Mrs. Montgomery-McGovern, "why should we not pay as much attention to the perfection of the human species as we do to the perfection of other animals?"

"But men have souls and animals haven't," said the visitor. "How will you be certain to improve the human species by bettering it only physically and mentally?"

"Mental and physical perfection will bring psychic perfection, we think," replied Mrs. Montgomery-McGovern. "If we all follow the rules laid down by our society not many generations will pass before this world will be a much better place to live in. We think better laws as those we propose will be enacted."

Other planks of the society's platform are:

Third—All children should be educated under the immediate supervision of the state from the time the child is 5 years old until it reaches its 15th year.

Fourth—The education of all children should be, first, physical; second, mental, third, social. The children to be allowed to choose any religion after their 15th year, but not before, as up to that age their power of judgment and discrimination is not sufficiently developed.

Fifth—All aged, mentally sound persons to be cared for at the expense of the state.

Sixth—Every person losing permanently the use of three senses should be peacefully electrocuted by the state.

Seventh—All incurably insane persons to be electrocuted.

"It would be quite as merciful to the hopelessly insane man to kill him painlessly as to keep him confined," said Mr. Montgomery-McGovern.

"And the economic side," suggested his wife.

"Yes; think of the amount of money and care and labor expended in taking care of the incurably insane, which should be used in the betterment of the race," said Mr. Montgomery-McGovern.

Eight—Man has no right to take the life of another physically sound human being. Murderers should be punished by incarceration for life and daily flogging.

"We want to make the punishment for murder as awful," said Mr. Montgomery-McGovern, "that the most hardened criminal will not dare to take human life. Electrocution is too merciful."

"There is another law I would like to see enacted," said Mr. Montgomery-McGovern, "and that is to limit the number of children to two in all families whose income is not more than \$1,000 a year. But the other members of the society are hearty in sympathy with us, yet they dare not come out openly and join the society for fear of unpleasant consequences. Our present officers are: C. Montgomery-McGovern, president; R. Leslie Oram, vice president, and Mrs. Archibald Langdon, secretary."

BRIEF NOTES FROM TOPEKA

Governor Leedy May Attend a Mass Meeting to Discuss Wills Bill.

The Valley State bank of Belle Plaine yesterday was granted a charter by the secretary of state. The capital stock is \$5,000. The directors are M. L. Haworth, A. J. Skinner, C. S. Foltz, J. B. Reed, R. F. Sippy and J. W. Forney of Belle Plaine, and J. S. Springer of Argonia.

Ex-Congressman Jeff Hixon of Wilson county is a candidate for the chairmanship of the Populist state committee. Hudson is a member of the board of regents of the state agricultural college and is very friendly with the Leedy crowd of Pops. He is also on intimate terms with the Briardental crowd. For these reasons his friends are urging his candidacy.

The people of Neosho county who don't want Willie Sell pardoned propose to get up a mass meeting at Erie for the discussion of the question, and they want Governor Leedy to be present. Governor Leedy told a reporter for the Capital yesterday that he had not decided whether to go to Erie. "I can't see that it would do any good," the governor said. "I have the statements of both sides. The parties came here and I gave them a hearing all the time they wanted. I doubt if either side has anything new on the subject."

Judge W. C. Webb of this city, who is engaged in the work of revising the state statutes, means to ignore the recent decision of the supreme court in reference to the unconstitutionality of the repeal law passed last winter, and will leave out of the statutes of 1897 the laws he personally holds to be redundant and unnecessary. This number will include practically all of the laws included in the repeal bill with the exception of the laws establishing courts, about twelve or fifteen in all. Judge Webb states that to place these laws in the statute books would increase each copy by forty pages, and that he does not intend to include them in the revision, as he holds them to be wholly redundant and unnecessary.

Railroad Commissioner William Campbell has gone to his home in Stafford county, ostensibly to look after the harvesting of his wheat crop, but it is given out on pretty good authority that he has gone out west for the purpose of finding some grain producer who will make complaint against the Kansas railroads for charging exorbitant freight rates on grain, so that the board can get together and establish a reduced schedule. The board is very anxious to twist the tails of the roads, but it can't get anybody to make complaint, and is thus prevented from proceeding according to law. The other members of the board and the clerk emphatically deny that Campbell is out fixing up a job, but nevertheless the story is regarded as having truth in it. Campbell is a big wheat producer himself, but he doesn't propose to make complaint. He says it would not do for the justice of the law to be the prosecuting officer, too.

The substitution of one article for another in a kind of green goods game that the public can put an end to by refusing to trade at stores where it is practiced.

RAILROAD TIME TABLES

ATKINSON, TOPEKA & SANTA FE			
North and East.			
Arrive	Leave	Arrive	Leave
No. 10	Wichita	Wichita	Chicago
6:30 a.m.	6:30 p.m.	6:30 a.m.	6:25 p.m.
6:45 a.m.	6:45 p.m.	6:45 a.m.	6:40 p.m.
6:55 a.m.	6:55 p.m.	6:55 a.m.	6:50 p.m.
7:10 a.m.	7:10 p.m.	7:10 a.m.	7:00 p.m.
7:20 a.m.	7:20 p.m.	7:20 a.m.	Local
7:30 a.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 a.m.	Englewood Express
7:45 a.m.	7:45 p.m.	7:45 a.m.	Calwell and Panhandle Ex.
South and West.			
Arrive	Leave	Arrive	Leave
No. 70	Wichita	Ch. Ft.	Worth & Galveston
6:35 a.m.	6:35 a.m.	6:35 a.m.	6:35 a.m.
6:50 a.m.	6:50 p.m.	6:50 a.m.	6:35 p.m.
7:10 a.m.	7:10 p.m.	7:10 a.m.	6:35 p.m.
7:25 a.m.	7:25 p.m.	7:25 a.m.	Local freight
7:40 a.m.	7:40 p.m.	7:40 a.m.	Englewood express